 Martinsson-Wallin, Helene. 1994. *Ahu -- The Ceremonial Stone Structures of Easter Island: Analyses of Variation and Interpretation of Meanings*. Aun 19. Societas Archaeologica Upsaliensis. Uppsala. 188 pages, 163 illustrations and photographs, and a bibliography. Soft cover, ISBN 91-506-1043-0.

*Review by William Liller, Chile*

In many ways this doctoral thesis resembles the work "Ceremonial Stone Structures...in the Society Islands, French Polynesia" by Paul Wallin which I reviewed in the last issue of *RNJ*. And well it should since the two authors are married, were doctoral candidates in the same Department of Archaeology, and had the same adviser, Dr. Bo Gräslund. Therefore, much of what was said in the review of Dr. Wallin's thesis applies here.

Two striking differences between these dissertations are, first, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin does not fully share Dr. Wallin's firmly stated conclusion that the physical appearance of the *marae/ahu* came from South America. She leaves the door somewhat ajar. Specifically, she states, "...it is not my intention to draw parallels between the Inca architecture and the Easter Island *ahu*", and "if contact did occur...there are several possibilities of how contact may have occurred between the two places".

Second, instead of showing schematic diagrams of *ahu* as was favored by Kenneth Emory and reproduced in Wallin's work, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin includes 69 black-and-white photographs of 56 *ahu*. Investigators interested in construction techniques will appreciate this small mine of information gathered together in one volume.

Some 313 *ahu* are included in this study, and from her analysis, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin puts on a firm quantitative basis many of the relationships that have long been known or suspected -- or unknown. For example, she pays close attention to where worked stones occur and how their presence relates to *ahu* size, location and type, and she finds evidence that "structures with worked stones in the rear wall are earlier than structures that are entirely made up of unworked stones".

In the chapter on spatial studies, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin shows us 28 individual maps of the entire island indicating where various *ahu* types and features occur. These show clearly, for instance, where those image *ahu* that had *moai* with *pukao* are found. On another map one can see at a glance that over sixty per cent of the *ahu avanga* are located along the short strip of coast from Akahanga to the start of the Poike peninsula. Until Señor C. Cristino and collaborators publish the long-promised catalogue to accompany their 1981 *Atlas Arqueológico*, such facts would be hard to come by.

In 1965 Bill Mulloy surveyed and described nearly 300 coastal *ahu*; his field notes have been available on computer diskette ever since 1988. Either Dr. Martinsson-Wallin was unaware of this immensely valuable study, or else she chose to stick with more traditional publications. I very much hope

that in a future edition of this otherwise excellent and important study, she will include these data. As I said about her husband's thesis, Dr. Martinsson-Wallin's dissertation should be read, studied and digested by every serious student of Pacific prehistory.



## *Nomads of the Wind*

*Film Review: Georgia Lee*

In our last issue [*RNJ* 8 (2):52] we reviewed Peter Crawford's *Nomads of the Wind*, the BBC book that accompanies the TV series of the same name. We now hear that the TV series will be shown in the United States on PBS, beginning in November.

Episode 1 ("The Faraway Heaven") airs on Sunday, 20 November; Episodes 2 and 3 ("Crossroads of the Pacific" and "Burning their Boats") are on Monday, 21 November, and Episodes 4 and 5 ("Distant Horizons" and "The Pierced Sky") are scheduled on Tuesday, 22 November. Episode 3, "Burning their Boats", is the film that features Easter Island. Check your local paper for details and times.

For the filming, executive producer Peter Crawford and his team spent two years on and off the islands of the Pacific, arriving to Easter Island just prior to the start of filming for the Hollywood epic, *Rapa-Nui*.

Crawford and his team ran up against rumors of large sums of money that were going to be paid to islanders to appear in the Hollywood film. Thus the locals who were portraying 'warriors' for the climatic scene in the BBC film balked at additional close-ups, demanding more money than the budget could bear. Crawford's entreaties fell on deaf ears, and with resignation and finality he shut off the generator, plunging the landscape into darkness. At that moment, by pre-arrangement, a four-wheel drive vehicle with a portable stove arrived--bringing a feast of barbecued pork. Negotiations were swift, the warriors performed with vigor, and the final shots were in the can.

*Nomads of the Wind* is an excellent series, beautifully filmed, and highly recommended. Don't miss it. The book itself is being distributed in the United States by Parkwest Publishing, 451 Communipaw Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07304. Phone (201) 432-3257.



*The Evolution and Organization of Prehistoric Society in Polynesia*. Edited by Michael W. Graves and Roger C. Green. New Zealand Archaeological Association Monograph 19, 1993.

125 pages, black and white photos, line drawings, maps, charts. Soft cover. This volume can be ordered from Sales Manager, New Zealand Archaeological Assn., % Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, New Zealand. Price is NZ \$25 + post/packaging. Orders will be invoiced.

*Review by William D. Hyder,  
University of California, Santa Cruz*

The monograph is a collection of papers presented in a session of the 1991 Pacific Science Association, plus some additions. The authors see the greatest strength of the papers as being "their contribution to archaeological method and theory, especially as they pertain to issues regarding archaeological variability, comparison and interpretation." They are correct in their assessment.

Of interest to the readers of this journal is the emphasis on monumental architecture and traditional interpretative models focusing on the production of excess wealth to support construction. The best paper to illustrate the changing focus of research is by C. Kehaunani Cachola-Abad ("Evaluating the Orthodox Dual Settlement Model for the Hawaiian Islands: An Analysis of Artifact Distribution and Hawaiian Oral Traditions") but it does not deal directly with monumental architecture. It is, however, an excellent comparison of competing models (dual settlement versus interaction) for the settlement of the Hawaiian Islands, critiquing the evidence used by Emory and Sinoto and providing new evidence to support the alternative interaction model. Abad's paper also provides a useful review of the strengths and weaknesses of modeling in general.

Thegn N. Ladefoged's ("The Impact of Resource Diversity on the Sociopolitical Structure of Rotuma: A Geographic System Analysis") Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis of resource diversity and districts from which kings were appointed on Rotuma more directly impacts Easter Island research. Ladefoged demonstrates that more kinds came from resource poor districts than came from resource rich districts. His findings directly contradict the expectation that resource rich districts will produce more political leaders. He explains his results by hypothesizing that the poorer districts worked harder at political success in order to gain access to the excess resources of richer districts.


Michael W. Graves and Maria Sweeney ("Ritual Behavior and Ceremonial Structures in Eastern Polynesia: Changing perspectives on Archaeological Variability") pursue a similar line of thought in evaluating Polynesian ceremonial structures and competing cultural evolution and scientific evolution models. They note that the largest *heiau* in Hawai'i are located in districts that are relatively resource poor rather than resource rich as has been proposed in the past. The interpretation is that people in these districts invested more in the symbols of power to gain access to additional resources or to counterbalance the political power of richer districts. A kind of "beating them at their own game" strategy. They suggest that such a strategy would explain the later, but larger *ahu* and *moai* on Rapa Nui's south coast. Following their model to its logical conclusion, the intense construction of *ahu* and *moai* was a result of environmental uncertainties rather than the cause of environmental decline. The rapid population decline ended *moai* construction because the population levels came into line with available resources and inter group conflict ceased.

Of course more testing is needed to evaluate these models. Jo Anne Van Tilburg's ("The Use of Photogrammetry, Laser Scan and Computer-assisted Drafting in the Analysis of

Easter Island Statuary") paper, for example, outlines a research project to determine how the Easter Island *moai* were moved. The bulk of her paper describes how she arrived at the norm or typical statue (there is some good information here and it is a good example of the use of star plots) and then gathered the data to construct a "virtual" *moai*. There is some danger, however, that her simulation has a predetermined outcome as she presents a model of the best means of transporting the statues. It seems this will be the model tested and it will be used to determine labor and probable resource costs. It would seem a better strategy to test each competing model, generate costs, and then return to the archaeological record for evidence that supports one model over another. In any event, the work described should prove interesting.

Perhaps the most significant paper in the volume could have been that by Patricia Vargas ("The Easter Island Prehistoric Sequence and Developments in its Settlement Patterns"). Alas, it is only a summary paper of survey work on Rapa Nui. What is evident, however, is that the Rapa Nui archaeological database may be the best preserved and the best documented of any of the islands in Polynesia. The potential to use Rapa Nui to test many of the ideas presented in the volume is unequalled on the other islands. Her summaries of the island surveys only hint at what could be produced in the future.

This volume also contains the following papers: Michael W. Graves and Roger C. Green, "The Study of Archaeological Variability in Polynesia"; Roger C. Green, "Community-level Organization, Power and Elites in Polynesian Settlement Pattern Studies"; Helen M. Leach, "The Role of Major Quarries in Polynesian Prehistory"; Cristophe Sand, "A Preliminary Study of the Impact of the Tongan Maritime Chiefdom on the Late Prehistoric Society of 'Uvea, Western Polynesia"; David J. Herdrich and Jeffrey T. Clark, "Samoan *tia 'ave* and Social Structure: Methodological and Theoretical Considerations"; and Richard Walter, "The Community in Ma'uke Prehistory".

 Bisignani, J. D. 1994. *Big Island of Hawaii Handbook, Including Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, The Kona Coast, and Waipio Valley*. Second Edition. Moon Publications, Chico, California. 350 Pages, 22 Maps, drawings, photographs-some in color. ISBN:1-56691-006-4. Price \$13.95. Phone (800) 345-5473.

*Review by Georgia Lee*

Moon Publications' second edition/update on the *Big Island of Hawaii Handbook* is now in print. It covers everything from *a'a* to YWCA, with current information on hotels, restaurants and shopping. It has a glossary, index and special restaurant index.

I am sorry to say that some things are still out of date: For example, since October 1993 (at least) Mookini Heiau in North Kohala has been closed and the entrance padlocked. Entry has to be arranged through the *kahuna nui* of the site,